



*She only had a 4th grade education;
But Grandma possessed more wisdom than anyone
I have ever known.*

*She didn't go to medical school;
But her hands on a fevered brow felt better
Than any doctor's hands ever could.*

*She never went to seminary;
But her life was a living testament
On how to get it right.*

*She always said she didn't know much
But to me what she knew mattered most.*

*When I was young I loved to be with her -
Especially on Sundays.
When it was cold Grandma wore a coat
With a fur collar.
I liked to rest my head
On her shoulder.
She and her fur collar were soft and comforting.
She made me feel:
Safe
Warm
Loved.*

I thought that Grandma was a saint.

*When she was old and frail
She fooled every doctor who cared for her.*

*"She won't live through the night," they'd say;
But she did - for nearly a year.
"Independence" is what she called her resolve.*

*"I never knew it would be this hard," she'd say;
But Grandma never let on how hard it really was.
"She doesn't understand how close to death she is."
But she did - she planned her own funeral.
"Keeps the details simple for everyone else."*

*People say:
"Well, she had a good, long life."
She did.
Maybe that's why we miss her so much.*

*When she married, her "Pa" had just died
So her wedding dress was black.*

*She had a simple wish at the end:
To wear that 80-year old dress to her grave.
She did.*

*"Ma, why do you want to wear
that old dress?"
"Ma, why don't you let me buy you
a new one?"*

*Her black dress had a collar
Of ivory lace.
The collar had not lasted 80 years -
It was yellowed and frayed.
Grandma didn't mind:
"The collar can be replaced, can't it?"
It was.*

*Because to Grandma, the only dress worth wearing
at the end,
Was the one she wore
at the beginning
Of her adult life*

She would have liked how she looked in it.

*Why did she insist on wearing her wedding dress?
I know she believed she was going to meet grandpa;
She hadn't seen him in 22 years.
Maybe she wanted to meet him
In death
Like she had met him
In life:
Wearing the same dress she wore
At the start of their life together
On earth
At the start of their life together
In heaven.*

It would have been like her to think so.

Credits:

From a book of poetry, entitled *Life is a Non-Stop Event*, by Carole Bos.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Losing-Grandma>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Losing-Grandma>

Media Stream



Losing Grandma

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>